

18 OCT 1994

Dr. A. Faul
Director of Animal Health
Department of Agriculture
Private Bag, Private Bag X138
Pretoria 0001

Dear Dr. Faul:

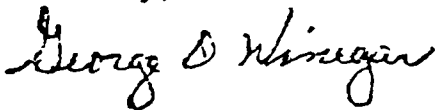
This is an interim response to your letter dated July 15, 1994, requesting that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognize South Africa as free of scrapie disease.

We are reviewing your application. However, we do not have established standards to recognize countries free of scrapie. We are currently developing standards and criteria for recognizing the risk status of diseases for regions. These standards, when implemented, may have some applicability to recognizing the risk of importing scrapie affected animals from various regions around the world, including South Africa.

Because USDA is in a transition period of moving from recognizing countries as free of a particular disease to determining the degree of disease risk associated with a particular region and a specific disease, we believe that it would be beneficial to both countries to wait until our "regionalization" standards are in place before determining the scrapie risk status of importing small ruminants from South Africa.

Thank you for understanding our position.

Sincerely,



George O. Winegar
Assistant Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services



Forwarded, Foreign Agricultural Service

cc:

Agricultural Counselor
FAS Files

E. Ayers, IS, Brussels, Belgium
K. Shank, IS, Hyattsville, MD
L. Sebranek, FAS, Washington, DC

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